

III. Amendments to the Drawings

Please replace sheet 2 of the drawings with the attached replacement sheet 2 containing Figure 2. Figure 2 has been amended to identify the bracketed components by the reference numeral 10.

IV. Remarks

Claims 1-26 stand rejected. Claims 1, 10, 19, and 25 are being amended, and claims 23, 24, and 26 are being cancelled. Accordingly, after entering this amendment, claims 1-22 and 25 remain pending.

Specifically, claims 1, 10, and 19, as amended, now recite a valve body with a first planar dimension through the center of the valve body and a second planar dimension through the center of the valve body that is less than the first planar dimension when the valve body is unstressed before being mounted in a passage of a housing. The first planar dimension is perpendicular to a slit that opens in a planar face of the valve body. When mounted in the passage, the valve body has a generally circular shape. Claims 1 and 10 further require a first slit and a second slit and open in a respective planar face, and claim 19 requires an internal ring positioned within the valve body between the a planar face and the intersection between an opening extending internally from the planar face and slit plane that extends internally from an opposing planar face.

Additionally, paragraph [0001] is being amended to update the status of the grandparent application, and paragraphs [0015], [0019], [0027], [0032], [0045], [0051], [0057], [0061], and [0068] of the Specification are being amended for clarity. No new matter is being added.

Figure 2 is being amended to identify the bracketed components by the reference numeral 10.

Reconsideration and re-examination of this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is herein respectfully requested.

Objections to the Drawings

In response to the drawing objections, Figure 2 has been amended in the attached replacement sheet 2 to identify the bracket components by the reference numeral 10, and claim 26 has been cancelled.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objections to the drawings.

Objections to the Description

The description was objected to for various informalities. In response, paragraphs [0015], [0019], [0027], [0032], [0045], [0051], [0057], [0061], and [0068] have been amended for clarity. Regarding the Examiner's question about "IRH" in Figure 19A, please see paragraph [0062] in which IRH refers to the internal ring height of the internal ring 8".

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objections to the description.

Claim Objections

In response to the claim objections, claim 25 has been amended to replace "surface" with --planar surface--. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objections to the claims.



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Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims 1-8 and 10-17 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,610,665 to Matsumoto et al. (Matsumoto). Claims 19-20, 22, 25 and 26 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,300,033 to Miller (Miller). Claims 19-22 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,409,463 to Behnke et al. (Behnke).

Turning to Matsumoto, that reference shows in its Figures 24A-B a rectangular valve body (130) with slits (131, 132) that open in respective planar surfaces of the valve body. The valve body (130) does not take a generally circular shape when mounted in a housing, unlike the valve body recited in amended claims 1 and 10.

Matsumoto also shows in its Figures 20A-B and 23A-B valve bodies that are circular before the valve bodies are mounted in a housing. As such, any planar dimension of either valve body across a respective planar face through the center of the valve body is the same, namely, the diameter of the valve body, when the valve body is unstressed before being mounted in the housing. In contrast, claims 1 and 10 require a valve body with a first planar dimension across a planar face and through the center of the valve body that is greater than a second planar dimension across the planar face and through the center of the valve body when the valve body is unstressed before being mounted in a passage of a housing.

Accordingly, Matsumoto fails to teach each and every element of amended claims 1 and 10.

Referring to Miller and to Behnke, neither reference discusses a valve body with a first planar dimension through the center of the valve body that is greater than a second planar dimension through the center of the valve body when the valve body is unstressed before being mounted in a passage of a housing, as now recited in amended claim 19.

Hence, neither Miller nor Behnke teaches each and every element of amended claim 19.

Accordingly, reconsideration of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and the allowance of claims 1, 10, and 19 are respectfully requested. Further, since claims 2-8, 11-17, 20-22, 25, and 26 depend from claims 1, 10, or 19, directly or indirectly, the reasons for allowance of claims 1, 10, and 19 apply as well to the dependent claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 9 and 18 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Matsumoto. Claims 23 and 24 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Behnke in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,409,463 to Thomas et al. (Thomas).

Since claims 9 and 18 depend from amended claims 1 and 10, respectively, the reasons for allowance of claim 1 and 10 apply as well to claims 9 and 18. Claims 23 and 24 have been cancelled.



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Accordingly, reconsideration of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) and the allowance of claims 9 and 18 are respectfully requested.

Double Patenting

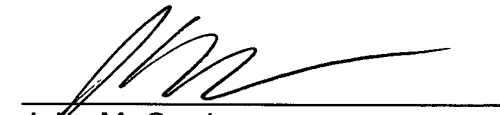
Claims 1, 4-6, 8-10, 13-15, 17-21, and 23-25 have been rejected under the judicially created doctrine of double patenting based on claims 1-31 of U.S. Patent No. 6,663,599. Claims 2-3, 7, 11-12, 16, and 22 have been rejected under the judicially created doctrine of double patenting based on claims 1-31 of '599 in view of Matsumoto. Claim 26 has been rejected under the judicially created doctrine of double patenting based on claims 1-31 of '599 in view of Miller. And claims 1-18 have been rejected under the judicially created doctrine of double patenting based on claims 1-18 co-pending Application No. 11/055,211 ('211) in view of Matsumoto and Fischer. Terminal Disclaimers with regard to the '599 patent and the '211 application in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) are attached hereto. Accordingly, Applicant requests withdrawal of the provisional double patenting rejections as moot.

Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present form of the claims (claims 1-22 and 25) are patentably distinguishable over the art of record and that this application is now in condition for allowance. Such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted by,

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Attachment: Replacement Sheet of Drawing (Figure 2)
Terminal Disclosures